Derailment of Chittorgarh Mhow Holiday Express

621. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chittorgarh Mhow Holiday Express derailed near Ratlam on the 6th June, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of persons who lost their lives and were seriously injured as a result of the accident;

(c) whether an inquiry has been held into the cause of derailment, if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the amount of ex-gratia payment made in relation to those who died and were seriously injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2 persons lost their lives, 8 persons were grievously injured and 10 persons sustained simple injuries.

(c) The Commissioner of Railway Safety/Western Circle is conducting statutory inquiry into the accident and has submitted his preliminary report. As per the provisional findings, more investigation are required to be done before arriving at the most probable cause of the derailment. Action has been initiated on the immediate recommendation made.

(d) Rs. 30,000/- to kith & kin of 2 deceased persons and Rs. 45,000/- to 18 persons who sustained grievous and simple injuries has been paid as *ex-gratia*.

Relief to passengers of Shanti Express

622. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for over 36 hours no relief was provided by the Railways to the passengers of the ill-fated Shanti Express which was stranded at Dakor during the recent floods in June in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons for this inaction for 36 hours on the part of Railways or their lack of co-ordination with the Gujarat Administration who took over 28 hours for dropping food packets (most of which fell into the water) for the marooned passengers; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of devising a contingency plan for such a situation in future?